

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A window assembly comprising:
 - a window sash movably mounted within a window frame, the window sash defining a first plane;
 - latches movably coupled with the window sash;
 - a winder disposed within a portion of the window sash, the winder having a first unactivated position and a second activated position, in the second activated position the latches are substantially withdrawn within the window sash allowing the window sash to be at least partially removed from the window frame;
 - the winder having an opening therein, the opening having at least a first width and a second width, the first width different than the second width;
 - a flexible cord slidingly received within the opening, the flexible cord passes freely through the opening of the winder.
2. The window assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the flexible cord has a diameter larger than one of the first width or the second width.
3. The window assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the opening of the winder has a third width that is different than the first and second widths.
4. The window assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the opening is perpendicular to the first plane when the winder is disposed in the unactivated position.
5. The window assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the flexible cord has a circular cross-section.
6. The window assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the latches comprise rotatable planar blade members.

7. A window assembly comprising:
 - a window sash movably mounted within a window frame, the window sash defining a first plane;
 - latches movably coupled with the window sash;
 - a winder disposed within a portion of the window sash, the winder having a first unactivated position and a second activated position, in the second activated position the latches are substantially withdrawn within the window sash allowing the window sash to be at least partially removed from the window frame;
 - the winder having an opening therein; and
 - a self-balancing flexible cord slidingly received within the opening.
8. The window assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein the self-balancing flexible cord has an outer diameter smaller than at least a portion of the opening such that the cord does not bind in and passes freely through the portion of the opening of the winder.
9. The window assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein the latches comprise rotatable planar blade members.
10. The window assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein the self-balancing flexible cord has a circular cross-section.
11. The window assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein at least a portion of the opening is circular.
12. A method comprising:
 - pushing a flexible filament within an opening of a winder;
 - separating tines of the winder while pushing the flexible filament within the winder;
 - operatively coupling the flexible filament with latches of a sash assembly; and

operating the winder and moving the latches within a window sash allowing at least a portion of the window sash to be released from a window frame.

13. The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising biasing the tines toward each other.
14. The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising preventing movement of the sash assembly relative to the window frame.
15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein preventing movement of the sash assembly includes locking a lower sash to an upper sash.
16. The method as recited in claim 12, wherein moving the latches includes rotating planar blades.
17. The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising self-balancing the flexible filament while operating the winder.
18. The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising freely sliding the flexible filament within the opening of the winder.
19. The method as recited in claim 12, wherein operating the winder includes rotating the winder in a first direction and coiling the flexible filament around the winder and withdrawing the latches within the window sash.
20. The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising sliding the sash assembly within the window frame.